

NORTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

**MEDICAL
OFFICER'S REPORT**

FOR

1913.



RALPH H. F. BOSTOCK.



NORTON, MALTON :

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Norton.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my report for the year 1913. There were 54 deaths registered during the year, as compared with 43 in 1912. The number of births were 105, as compared with 85 in 1912.

Estimating the population at 4,000, the following are the birth and death rates :—

1913.					1912.			
Deaths	...	...	...	54	Death-rate	13·5	...	10·7
Deaths under 1 year of age				13	„	„	3·2	1·2
Births	...	...	...	105	Birth-rate	26·2	...	21·2

Out of the 54 deaths —

5 persons were over 90 years of age.			
3	„	„	between 80 and 90 years of age.
12	„	„	70 and 80 „ „

The death-rate of the five preceding years were —

1908	...	...	...	20·0
1909	...	...	...	9·7
1910	...	...	...	14·2
1911	...	...	...	12·2
1912	...	...	...	10·7

The following are the causes of death at all ages :—

Diabetes	...	...	2
Heart Disease	...	...	8
Bronchitis	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	2
Phthisis Pulmonalis	...	...	3
Senile Decay	...	...	6
Cancer	...	...	2
Brights Disease	...	...	4
Premature Birth	...	...	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	5
Spina Bifida	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	3
Infective Euteritis	...	...	1
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	2
Peritonitis	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	2
Total			54

Mortality as to age —

Under one year	...	...	13
1 and under 5	...	...	1
5 „ „ 15	...	...	3
15 „ „ 25	...	...	3
25 „ „ 65	...	...	11
65 „ „ 70	...	...	3
70 „ „ 90	...	...	15
90 and over	...	...	5

Infectious Cases.

There were 14 cases reported during the year, viz. :—

Erysipelas	7
Diphtheria	7

Most of the Diphtheria cases were of children from the Catholic School at Malton, where there had been a good many cases.

Norton is situated in the midst of an agricultural district in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and is mainly a residential town. Most of the working classes are employed in Malton, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. There are about 1,000 houses in Norton, practically all occupied, of which about 800 are rated at £10, and under that amount.

An hospital for infectious cases is to be built for the combined districts, and it is now under consideration by the County Council. All houses are thoroughly disinfected after infectious disease.

Steady progress has been made to improve the sanitary condition of the district. Systematic inspections have been made, and all nuisances found received early attention.

Alterations have been carried out for the improvement of the drainage and the condition of the sanitary conveniences, which consists of 214 water closets, 231 privies with fixed receptacles, and 365 privies with movable receptacles. During the year 43 movable receptacles have been substituted for privies with fixed receptacles. The scavenging is done by the Council's own staff. All the excreta pails are removed weekly in a covered van to the dépôt and washed out and disinfected. The refuse meets with a ready sale for agricultural purposes, and is not allowed to accumulate.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are eight cowkeepers and four purveyors of milk registered. The premises have been inspected frequently, and are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. Lime washing twice yearly is strictly insisted upon. The cows on the whole are in good condition. One cow was notified as suffering from tuberculosis of the udder, and was inspected by the County Veterinary Inspector, who gave a negative diagnosis. One milkseller was brought before the magistrates by the County Food and Drug Inspector, and fined for selling milk below the standard.

Slaughter Houses.

The slaughter houses consist of two licensed slaughter houses, one registered, and one licensed for the slaughtering of sheep and pigs only. All have been kept regularly cleaned and limewashed four times yearly. Complaints have been made about the smoke and the stench arising from the boiling of fat and offal, and the occupier has taken precautions to abate the nuisance. The removal of manure and offal is carried out satisfactorily, and I have had no complaints with the exception of the one mentioned above. All meat has been inspected and found to be of good quality.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 16 workshops registered. All have been inspected regularly, and found to have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition, all being well lighted and ventilated. No cases of overcrowding have been found.

Housing.

During the year several of the worst houses have been inspected, and all particulars of such inspections entered in the Housing Inspection Record Book. Fifty-seven of the houses inspected have been repaired and put into an habitable condition. The chief defects found to exist are defective drainage, damp walls and roofs, defective floors, etc. Complete new drainage has been put into 22 houses. New roofs, floors, and sanitary conveniences have been done to South Parade, new water-closets erected to several houses in Wold Street; and general repairs and alteration have been done to all the houses reported. All the necessary work has been done without the making of closing orders, most of the owners having readily responded to the requests made to them, but in the majority of cases the cost has fallen upon the tenants, because the landlords have raised the rents to pay for the required alterations.

During the year one new house has been erected, and seven are in course of erection, three of which are cottages suitable for the working classes.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	90
Found unfit for habitation	...	...	57
Representations made to Local Authorities with a view to making closing orders	...	...	57
Closing orders made	...	...	0
Dwelling-houses in which the defects were remedied after the making of closing orders			0
Number of dwelling-houses in which the defects were remedied without the making of closing orders	...	...	57

Water Supply.

The water supply has been extended along the Welham Road. Two samples of water of a suspicious character have been analysed, and were found to be polluted with sewage. In both cases the pumps were taken up and the town supply laid on.

The following is a list of nuisances abated :—

Complete new drainage ...	...	4	...	22 houses
Drains improved	...	5		
Pans in lieu of ashpits	...	43		
Dust-bins in lieu of ashpits	...	7		
Defective water-closets removed		8		
Defective gullies removed	...	17		
Cesspools removed	...	1		
Other nuisances	...	3		
Defective sinks removed...	...	2		
Total		90		

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. BOSTOCK.